[6th February 1925

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I point out that the explanation is contained in the paragraph itself? The determination of the question whether a particular street is public or not will depend amongst other things on whether the municipality in taking over control has accepted or recognized any limitations on the right of the public."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know what the definition of Government poramboke is ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I must refer the hon. Member to the Board's Standing Orders."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" May I know if the Government made enquiries regarding the question whether the municipality reserved any limitations as to the use of public roads ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That is a matter to be investigated by the local officers."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the Palghat municipality contributes any sum towards the maintenance of this road ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" May I take it then that it is a public road and not a private one ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That is a matter for the civil courts to decide. The Government have already stated that."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Who is to go to court, Sir ? Is it the Government or any other body ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I take it that generally it is the party that is aggrieved that goes to court."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Is not the Government the most competent authority to decide the matter ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid not."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know why the Government will not move in the matter ? "

Use of public wells, tanks, etc., by the depressed classes.

*159 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state all the practical steps taken on or effect given to the resolution of the Madras Legislative Council passed on 22nd August 1924 with reference to throwing open all public wells, tanks, roads, etc., to all classes of people of His Majesty's Government ?

A.—The Government have accepted the resolution and communicated it to local bodies and heads of departments for information and guidance. They have also directed the publication of the resolution in English and in the vernaculars in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and in the district gazettes.

6th February 1925]

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to the main question, may I know whether the Government are aware that the local bodies are actually not giving effect to the Government Order ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have no information to that effect."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" My own information is that most of the municipalities and district boards are not actually giving effect to the Government Order by publishing it in the proper manner so that it might be within the reach of the public."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Unless particular cases are brought to the notice of the Government that any particular officer has not reasonably obeyed the order, I cannot do anything."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I point out that in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Tanjore, the publication was not sufficiently announced? Are not Government going to enquire about it ? "

11-15 a.m.

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I cannot say whether the publication was sufficiently announced or not ; it is a matter of opinion."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Will the Government consider the suggestion that reports be called for from the district authorities as to how this resolution was given effect to in their districts ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I remind my hon Friend that the Government Order only laid down the policy of the Government? No great purpose would be served by calling on the district officers to say how far that policy has been given effect to. We must wait until cases arise in which that order is departed from. When specific cases do arise, it will then be time to interfere."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I ask whether Government are going to allow municipalities and district boards to do things in their own way to the detriment of the oppressed and depressed classes ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" In so far as it lies within their constitutional powers, the Government have every right to leave municipalities and local boards to take their own way."

Jails.

Release of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon.

*160 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have any intention of releasing Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon ?

A.—The reply is in the negative.

Mr. Anjaneyulu rose to put a supplementary question.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" On a point of order. This starred question has been sent in by a friend who is absent. Under rule 2 'If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.' So it is not open to any member at this stage to put a supplemental question."